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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/632,089	08/02/2000	Masato Yoshida	N0520.0033/P033	9084

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EXAMINER

MOORE, DAVID K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/632,089

Applicant(s)

YOSHIDA, MASATO

Examiner

Yaoneng Lee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 August 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Reference character 13 has been used to designate both the inlet port and name card reading section (P23 line 15 and line 13). Name card reading section should have been designated a reference numeral of 3.

Appropriate correction is required.

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- a. P1, line 20. Grammatical error in phrase "people have increasingly create name cards..." should be corrected to "people are increasingly using/creating..."

- b. P19, line 19. Typographical error in phrase "photograph of a person...is required and the face photograph...". The word "required" should be changed to "acquired" and the phrase should be changed to "...is acquired, the face photograph..."

- c. P20, line 18-24. Revise entire paragraph to clarify disclosure and correct multiple grammatical errors.

- d. P30, line 20. Word "taken" should be removed from sentence.

Appropriate corrections are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Farros et al. (5930810), hereinafter known as Farros.

The claimed invention reads on Farros as follows:

Regarding claim 1, Farros discloses a business card printing apparatus (*from hereon, business and name cards can be interpreted to mean identical objects and can be used interchangeably*) comprising an apparatus fetching means for fetching layout information (Fig. 3 ref. no. 302, where **computer with a display screen** (308) showing a business card option when selected, **computer** fetches format information of predefined name cards read from a **program module** (206)); a means for displaying layout (Fig. 3 ref. no. 308, **Display screen**, with screen view in Fig. 5 displaying a name card with layout information); means for inputting additional information (Fig. 3 ref. no. 310, **keyboard as input means** and col. 8 line 1-5, **Text, Design and Logo Change options**); means for allocating additional information to a predetermined blank space region depending on an external allocating operation for the layout (Fig. 3 ref. no. 310, where allocation of information is made by using pointing device and Fig. 5 ref. no. 502-504 shows the possible allocation of **Text, Design and Logo Change options**); and

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means for printing sequentially the additional information for a predetermined number of name cards (Fig. 3 ref. no. 312, **Printer** and col.10 line 41-46).

Regarding claim 2, Farros discloses means for fetching name card with predetermined information printed and reading layout thereof (Fig. 3 ref. no. 302, wherein **computer** fetches format information of predefined name cards from storage 304 and 305 and displays it on (Fig. 3 ref. no. 310 wherein Farros' computer reads in layout of preprinted card forms from storage, card forms comprises of the combination of predetermined graphic and background files and layout format formed on preprinted media according to col. 4 line 7-10 and 43-48).

Regarding claim 4, in addition, Farros' system comprises of means for fetching data file storing plurality of information (Fig. 3 ref. no. 302, **computer** fetches data files 316, 318 and 320 via modem (314) according to col. 5 line 12-14 and col. 6 line 16-19) wherein data file contains plurality of information related to the layout (Fig. 3 ref. no. 316, 318 and 320 according to col. 5 line 12-14 and col. 6 line 16-19 where col. 5 line 12-26 gives the definition of **CXX, ODF and EPS data files**) for purpose of printing on paper the same size as that of the card (Fig. 3 ref. no. 312 shows a printer which operates according to col. 6 line 48-54, wherein the selection of sheet size of a containing business cards of the same size is made by the user).

Regarding claim 10, Farros' system comprises the calculation of the amount of money corresponding to the quantity of name cards printed (Fig. 3 ref. no. 318, **Order Data File (ODF)** contain quantity and pricing information according to col. 5 line 20-23 and this step is illustrated in Fig. 10 ref. no. 1004 and 1014) and the issuing of a slip on

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which the amount owed is printed on (**Printer** (312 of Fig. 3 prints receipt of print order displaying the calculated amount of money owed as shown in Fig. 10 ref. no. 1028, col. 6 and line 11-16 and col. 11 line 5-8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 5-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farros as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Stechmann et al. (5617528), hereinafter known as Stechmann.

Regarding claim 3, Farros discloses the input of an additional image onto the card and the allocation of the image onto a blank space region (Fig. 9c-9e showing the **background image and graphic image**, col. 9 line 6-13) but does not teach the use of image acquiring means as inputting means.

However, Stechmann discloses a card creating apparatus comprising image acquiring means as input (col. 5 line 21-27).

Regarding claims 5-7, although Farros discloses the input of a graphical image in the name card, he merely states the input of a logo (Fig. 5 ref. no. 503) and not a face photograph acquired by image acquiring means such as a digital camera or scanner or

by a plotting operation in a computer nor does his system teach the notification of the user upon completion of the printing process.

However, Stechmann discloses the means for obtaining a video picture of a subject from a still photograph that can be interpreted as a face photograph (col. 82, line 31-35), wherein said means include either a camera or an image scanner (Fig. 1 ref. no. 54, 56 and 58). The plotting function described in the claims is interpreted as a drawing computer program that allows the user to customize his images. With this interpretation in mind, it is determined that Stechmann discloses means for creating an image using a plotting operation (col. 13 line 48-53 wherein signature capture device allows user to **sign, draw or write images which can be recorded onto the computer**).

Regarding claim 9, Stechmann also discloses means for giving notice that the printing process of printing process is completed (col. 76 line 52-60, where the **STATUS command periodically checks the printing status**).

Farros and Stechmann are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. card creating and printing systems.

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to integrate Stechmann's use of image capturing devices like scanners, cameras and plotting operation devices into the input devices of Farros' printing system and utilizing Stechmann's interactive program that informs users on the printing status of their print order in Farros' printing apparatus.

The motivation for doing so would have been to: a) improve efficiency by notifying users of Farros' kiosk or personal system on the completion of printing the

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specified quantity of cards so as to prevent unnecessary waiting time; b) utilize the most common forms of image acquiring means comprising the above said devices so as to capture a photo image in a computer readable image format and; c) allow flexibility in creating desired image (e.g. logos or photos) in the personalization of name cards.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Farros with Stechmann to obtain the invention as specified in claims 3, 5-7 and 9.

5. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farros, as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Egashira et al. (5336657), hereinafter known as Egashira.

Farros discloses the printing of the business card information on business card-sized paper but his disclosure lacks the aspect of a coating process on the print surface prior to printing.

Egashira, however, provides a method for coating an image-receiving sheet on the card surface prior to printing the image (col. 22, line 62-col. 24 line 7 wherein image receiving sheet is **coated on printing surface of name card** according to col. 11 line 62).

Farros and Egashira are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. business or identification card printing.

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the printing system of Farros with the coating process of Egashira. The motivation to do so would have been to preserve the quality of coloring of an image

printed on the card surface by preventing printing and color drift so as to carry out printing without a blot or a blur irrespective of the state of the print surface. Egahira's card surface coating process will create more precise print images on Farros' business cards by preventing smudging, thereby creating a more professional appearance.

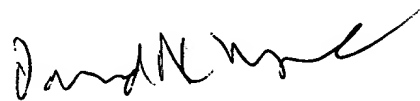
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yaoneng Lee whose telephone number is (703) 305-8670. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.00am-4.30pm (Mon-Fri).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (703) 308-7452. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9700.

5 November 2003


DAVID MOORE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600